



News Analysis (12 Sep, 2019)

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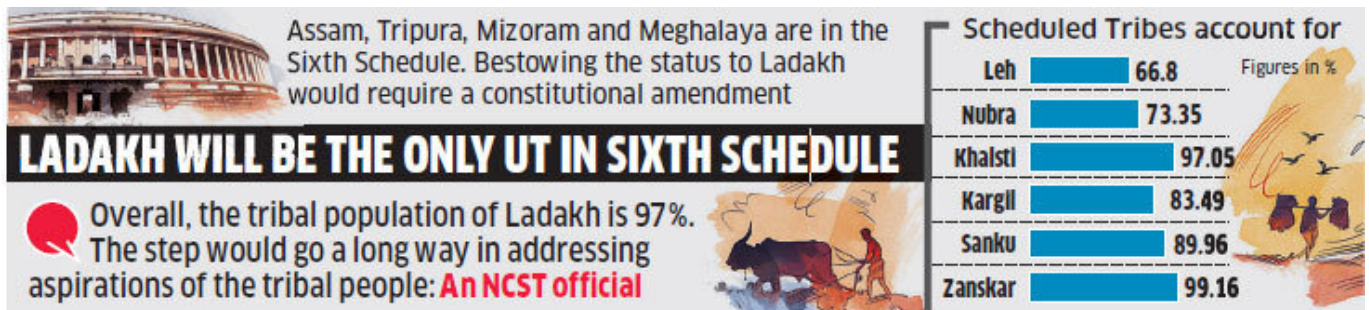
Ladakh Under Sixth Schedule

The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** has recommended that the **Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.**

- **NCST, a constitutional body** to safeguard socio-cultural rights of Scheduled Tribes, was entrusted with the responsibility of examining the status of tribals in Ladakh, by the Centre.
- **If included, Ladakh will be the only UT in the Sixth Schedule.** Also, bestowing such a status to Ladakh would **require a constitutional amendment.**

Reasons Behind the Recommendation

- It is estimated that **more than 90% of Ladakh's population is tribal.** The primary **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in Ladakh are Balti **Beda, Bot (or Boto), Brokpa (or Drokpa, Dard, Shin), Changpa, Garra, Mon and Purigpa.**
- The Ladakh region has **several distinct cultural heritages** by communities such as Drokpa, Balti and Changpa, among others, which needs to be preserved and promoted.
- **Prior to the creation of Union Territory of Ladakh, people in Ladakh region had certain agrarian rights** including right on land which restricted people from other parts of the country to purchase or acquire land in Ladakh.
- Inclusion in the sixth schedule **will help in democratic devolution of powers** in the region and will also enhance the transfer of funds for speedy development of the region.



Sixth Schedule

- The Constitution, under Sixth Schedule, contains **special provisions for the administration**

of tribal areas in the **four north-eastern** states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**.

- **Autonomous Districts:** The tribal areas in these four states have been constituted as autonomous districts. The **governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts**.
 - The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
 - The power of direction, in this regard, lies **either with the President or Governor**.
- **District Council:** Each autonomous district has a district **council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the Governor** and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.
 - The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.
 - Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.
- **Powers of the Council:** The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction.
 - They can make **laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation**, village administration, the inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But **all such laws require the assent of the Governor**.
 - They can **constitute** village councils or **courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes**. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
 - The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
 - They are empowered to **assess and collect land revenue** and to impose certain specified taxes.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- **Formation:** The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by **amending Article 338** and inserting a new **Article 338A** in the Constitution through the **Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003**.

By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) w.e.f. 19th February 2004.
- **Composition:** The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has a **Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 3 other Members**. These are appointed by the **President** by warrant under his hand and seal.
 - One of the three other Members has to be a **woman**.
 - The Vice-Chairperson and all other Members, out of whom **at least two** are appointed from amongst persons **belonging to the Scheduled Tribes**.
- **Term of Office:**
 - The term of office of each member of the Commission is **three years** from the date of

assumption of charge.

- The members are **not eligible for appointment** for more **than two terms**.
- **Functions:**
 - To monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution or under any other law or under any order of the Government
 - To participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes,
 - To evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State,
 - To present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

Source: PIB

Jeevan Kaushal Programme

Recently, the Government has launched the **Curriculum for Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal)** programme designed by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**.

- **Jeevan Kaushal** is aimed at:
 - Inculcation of an Emotional Intelligence.
 - Development of Intellectual Competencies.
 - Development of verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- The program has been framed for **Undergraduate courses** across the country.
- The Designed program is for 8 credit points and can be accommodated in **any semester of the course**.
- The program will comprise of **four courses**:
 - Communication skills,
 - Professional and Leadership skills,
 - Problem-solving and Decision-making,
 - Universal human values.

Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai

Also, to make **India the Skill Capital of the World**, the Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has laid the foundation stone of the **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Mumbai**.

- It will provide skill training to students who want to pursue **technical education after completing Class X and Class XII**, making them employable and industry-ready.
- The Tata Education Development Trust (TEDT) is the private partner for setting up IIS in Mumbai.

Indian Institute of Skills (IIS)

- Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) are in line with **Institutes of Eminence (IoEs)** including IITs and

IIMs.

- IIS aims to enrol **5,000 students per year with campus placement of 70% trainees.**
- The Union Cabinet has given its nod to set up Indian Institute of Skills (IISs) in **three** locations of the country :
 - **Mumbai**
 - **Ahmedabad**
 - **Kanpur**
- These institutes will be **constructed & operated on a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model and on a not-for-profit basis.**
- It will facilitate learnings and **training through** strong industry connect in both the **public and private sectors.**
- It will help promote programs like Make in India, Skill India as well as to cater to the demand of **Industry 4.0.**

Source: PIB

National Animal Disease Control Programme & National Artificial Insemination Programme

Recently, the Prime Minister launched the **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)**, to control and eradicate the Foot & Mouth Disease (**FMD**) and **Brucellosis** amongst the livestock in the country, at **Mathura**.

Key Highlights

- **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)**
 - The following are the **aims** of NADCP programme:
 - To vaccinate over **600 million cattle** in the country in an effort to mitigate the two diseases namely, **the Foot & Mouth Disease, & brucellosis.**
 - The programme also aims at vaccinating **36 million female bovine calves** annually in its fight against the **brucellosis** disease.
 - To **control** the livestock diseases by 2025, and **eradicate** them by 2030.
 - The livestock that will be covered under the programme includes cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs against the **FMD**.
 - The project will be **fully funded** by the Central Government.
- The Prime Minister also launched the **National Artificial Insemination Programme** and a country-wide **workshop** in all the **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** throughout the 687 districts of the country on '*vaccination and disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity*'.
- The launch of '**Swachhta Hi Seva**' programme on reducing the usage of **single-use plastics** in the country was one of the key highlights of the event.

Way Forward

- Animal Husbandry and other allied activities have a greater role to play in increasing the farmers' income. Investments in Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, bee-keeping, inter alia will bring

more returns to the farmers.

- In the last **five years**, India has followed a new approach to farming and allied activities. Innovation and new technology is the need of the hour, to expand the **Dairy Sector** in India. The launch of the **“Start-up Brand Challenge”** to appreciate innovations coming from the villages is a welcome step in this regard.

National Artificial Insemination Programme

- Artificial insemination is a novel method of bringing about **impregnation** in female breeds.
- It prevents the spread of certain diseases which are genital in nature, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the breed.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

- KVK is an integral part of the **National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**, which aims at the assessment of location-specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement, and demonstrations.
- KVKs have been functioning as **Knowledge and Resource Centre** of agricultural technology supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sectors for **improving the agricultural economy** of the district and are linking the NARS with extension system and farmers.
- The KVK is **100% funded by the Government of India**.
- The first KVK was established in 1974 at **Puducherry**.

Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign

Swachhta Hi Seva initiative aims at accelerating the momentum of **Swachch Bharat Mission** and converting it into a **Jan-Andolan** for realizing the vision of a Clean India, reinforcing the belief that **‘Sanitation is everyone’s business’**.

Source: PIB

DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous Anti-tank Missile

Recently, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully flight tested indigenously developed **Man-Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**.

- It is **low weight** and **fire and forget** missile.



- The missile was launched from a **man-portable Tripod launcher**.
- This is the **third series** of successful testing of MPATGM.
- The missile is incorporated with **Infrared Imaging Seeker** along with **advanced avionics**.

Source: PIB

Exercise HimVijay

The Army is scheduled to conduct a major **Exercise 'HimVijay'** beginning **October 2019** in **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** with its newly created **Integrated Battle Groups (IBG)**.

- It will witness around 15,000 soldiers in three IBGs, carved out of the 17 Mountain Strike Corps, being **tested for mountain warfare** in terms of operational viability and logistics.
- The Indian Airforce (IAF) will also participate for airlifting of soldiers and equipment as well as inter-valley transfer.
- The exercise will **coincide with the proposed visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping for the second informal summit** with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Integrated Battle Groups

- The IBGs are part of overall force transformation initiated by the Army.
- They are **brigade-sized agile self-sufficient combat formations** which can swiftly launch strikes against an adversary in case of hostilities.
- The Army is in the process of reorganising its major Corps into the IBGs, though the number of IBGs had not been decided yet.
- **Each IBG is tailor-made based on three T's (Threat, Terrain and Task)** and resources will be allotted based on the three T's. They are tailored to mobilise within 12-48 hrs based on their location.

17 Mountain Strike Corps

- The creation of the Corps was cleared by the **Cabinet Committee of Security in 2013**.
- These are formed to launch offensive operations against the northern adversary.
- Also known as the **Brahmastra Corps**, it seems to be **China-specific Strike Corps** as it is located in close proximity to China.
- These are based at **Panagarh, West Bengal**.

Source:TH

Disaster Management Tool

The State Government of Maharashtra to come up with a **disaster risk management tool** for **reducing the damage** that is caused by floods.

- The project will be supported by the United States Trade and Development Agency (**USTDA**- an independent American think tank).
- According to a preliminary report of the USTDA, between 2005 and 2015, over 3,000 people died in floods in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) alone.
- The report stated that in the state there were many loopholes in the system such as,

- Vulnerable disaster-prone areas were not being properly identified,
- New infrastructure projects that were taken up did not take the hazard levels under consideration.
- The report recommended that the government must implement a **flood management and vulnerability risk framework** through an **integrated technology platform**.
- According to the report, there is a need to devise a **disaster vulnerability risk index**.
 - A vulnerability index could include a measurement framework with key indicators for reliability assessment, & responding to data quality issues.
 - The index will comprise of **3 key components**:
 - Assessment of vulnerable zones,
 - Monitoring the flood impact, and
 - The undertaking of continuous assessment.
- A similar tool was designed earlier in **Brazil and Thailand**, on ***GIS-based flood maps and zoning for early warning and forecasts***.
- A real-time decision support system provides short and medium-term flood forecasting, reducing the damaging impact of floods.

Source: TH
